

The story of the Wounded Worshipper
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Chapter 1: The Wound and the Worshipper

Perseverance by the River

Shaykh Sa'dī—may Allah have mercy on him—once encountered a devout man residing by the bank of a river. This man was afflicted by a deep wound caused by a leopard's attack. Despite the passage of many years, and despite the application of various remedies, his injury remained unhealed.

Constancy in Gratitude:

Remarkably, the man continued to express gratitude to God Almighty throughout his suffering. This steadfastness drew the attention of those around him, who questioned the reason for his unyielding thankfulness.

The Gratitude of the Righteous:

Devout Man:

"I thank God for the blessing that I am afflicted with a trial and not ensnared in sin."

The Righteous Preference:

Shaykh Sa'dī—may Allah have mercy on him—reflected that the true servants of God choose affliction over sin. He presented a compelling example drawn from sacred tradition to underline this noble sentiment.

Shaykh Sa'dī:

"Have you not seen what Joseph the Truthful said in his condition?"

The Prayer of Prophet Yūsuf (AS):

Prophet Yūsuf (AS):

"My Lord! I prefer prison to what these women invite me towards."

Thus, Shaykh Sa'dī's account serves as a testament to the spiritual fortitude of the pious, who embrace hardship in this world rather than compromise their moral integrity.